The nuclear share is low in view of low capacity base of nuclear power in the above countries.

(d) Nuclear power tariff are competitive with those of thermal power at locations away from coalmines. Hydro, being location and season specific, is not comparable.

(e) The average generation tariff of nuclear power stations in the year 2007-08 was Rs. 2.28 per kWh, which is comparable to that of non-pithead thermal power stations.

(f) The present installed nuclear power capacity of 4120 MWe will reach 7280 MWe by March 2011 with the progressive completion of projects under construction. More projects are also planned to increase the nuclear power capacity.

Amendment in passport act/rules

705. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the difficulties faced by the people in getting the names on passport document, specially the names of their deceased parents corrected;

(b) whether the Ministry had issued any guidelines to facilitate such correction;

(c) whether Government proposes to amend Passport Act or the rules framed thereunder amended for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) There are very clear rules regarding change of name in passport and are printed in the instruction booklet attached with the passport application form. These requirements include sworn and notarized deed poll in the prescribed *pro forma*, and two newspaper clippings announcing such name change, one in the newspaper in circulation at the applicant's permanent address and the other at the present address. Since name can be changed only by a living person, names of deceased parents cannot be corrected unless they themselves had changed their names during their lifetime and the applicant submits proof thereof.

(c) No.

(d) Not applicable.

Change in UK visa rules

706. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UK Government has changed visa rules with respect to Highly-Skilled Indian migrants;

(b) whether it is a fact that these rules, in practice, apply retrospectively;

(c) whether Government has taken up the matter with UK Government;

(d) the changes made in Visa rules; and

(e) the details of the representations made by representative bodies of Indian immigrants and also by Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. The UK amended immigration laws for Highly-Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP) visa holders in 2006 and has launched a point-based system for foreign workers in 2008.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. The issue has been taken up in bilateral discussions with the UK authorities.

(d) The UK Government have launched a new comprehensive point-based system for foreign workers with the first stage of the system becoming operational on 29 February 2008. The system is to be introduced in stages to streamline more than 80 existing routes of entry into 5 broad categories for non-EU workers. Each of the 5 tiers will have different conditions, entitlements and entry clearance checks. As a first stage, Tier-1 for highly skilled workers will replace the erstwhile HSMP, and has been implemented in India from 1st April 2008. Other tiers will be implemented between the autumn 2008 and spring 2009.

(e) The HSMP visa issue have been taken up through the Indian High Commission in the UK. The Government have no record of petitions/representations filed by the Indian immigrants to the UK authorities.

International conference for expanding United Nations

†707.SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an international conference is likely to be held in September next year in India;

(b) if so, the aim of that conference;

(c) whether the conference would include all those countries who want expansion of the United Nations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government do not propose to convene an international conference in India on the subject of expansion of the United Nations.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Steps for expanding UNSC

†708.SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken as well as proposed to be taken in the near future to expedite expansion of the United Nations Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): The expansion of the Security Council is being discussed in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) where India is playing a major and proactive role. India will continue its efforts in forthcoming discussions in the UNGA.

Permanent membership for Security Council

709. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.